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calumniated. The natural beauties of the island are familiar enough in description, and yet those who travel with M. Martel will see even the most familiar scenes in a new light.

Especially admirable are the two chapters, XV and XVI, devoted to the Coast of Antrim, which the author studied from Larne to Portrush, from the Cornice Road, worthy to be classed with those of the Alpes-Maritimes and the Crimea, to Dunluce Castle and the White Rocks. It is not only for the Giants' Causeway, he declares, but for the whole Antrim Coast that the traveller should go to Ulster.

The illustrations, which are extremely good, are from originals furnished by public institutions and private collectors.

The Journal of School Geography, edited by Mr. Richard E. Dodge, Associate Professor of Natural Science, Teachers College, New York City, has appeared monthly, this year, and is filled with information and suggestions for the common-school teacher of geography, in whose interests it is published. Mr. Dodge is assisted by an able corps of associate editors.

Elementary Geology. By Ralph S. Tarr, B.S., F.G.S.A., pp. xxx + 499. $1.40 net. Macmillan Co., New York, 1897.

In this volume Prof. Tarr has given us a very readable and interesting treatise concerning the elements of geology. It is, perhaps, the most attractive of the elementary text-books in geology capable of being used to profit in American schools.

Beginning with an introductory account, unfortunately a little meagre, of the various kinds of rocks, igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic, Prof. Tarr lays the foundations for an understanding of the surface features of the earth. In striking contrast to many elementary books, but following the dictates of common sense and of modern pedagogy, Prof. Tarr lays particular stress upon dynamical geology, believing that the youthful mind, perhaps for many years blind to the works of nature, can best be introduced to her mysteries through a study of processes which can now be seen at work. In the consideration of wind erosion, we regret that the author has not made more clear the effect of the sand-blast upon pebbles, thereby contrasting this erosive process with that of moving water, where again he fails to bring out clearly the story of the eroded pebbles.

In the chapter on under-ground water, a little more lengthy account might have been given of those interesting and important results known as limestone caves. Sufficient emphasis also has not been given to the fact that water is to be found in the earth to the greatest depth to which mines have reached.

In the chapter on rivers and oceans, the author is to be complimented, though he might have devoted more attention to river meanders as illustrated in large rivers, such as the Mississippi. In considering river and lake deposits, the subject matter is good, though the paragraph on river deposits is, like most explanations of these deposits, meagre and not clear. The attention given to alluvial cones and deltas, to their influence upon river courses and history, is extremely good.

We regret that the author has paid so little attention to the characteristic forms of glacier deposits in his chapter on glaciers. The chapter would have been much improved if more attention had been given to drumlins, eskers, etc., of so much interest in certain parts of the United States.

In the question of mountains, the author does not go into sufficient detail, and he would have made his case more complete if he had considered other forms left by erosion than those he mentions, as, for instance, buttes. The chapter on volcanoes, earthquakes, and geysers is very good.

In the part of the book dealing with historical geography, we feel that the author has done well in not going into more detail concerning the study of fossils. It cannot be thought that one short paragraph devoted to the topic of evolution is enough for this fundamental conception in science.

As a whole the book has a good deal in its favor, and some things must be said against it. In many cases the explanations lack definiteness and detail, and the number of terms given is too small to enable a pupil to make use of geological literature. On account of the commendable popular tone in which it is written, the pupil might feel that he had gained a very complete knowledge of geology. To leave him in such a state of mind would be an unfortunate thing on the part of the teacher. In many parts of the book more illustrative instances might very well have been given. The author has failed in some cases to make clear the exact place of which he is talking. For instance, the limits to the earth jar, described on page 353, would not, perhaps, be clear to a Western reader. There are a few errors in the book, the most important of which is that on page 293, where the author has, by a slip, confused normal and reverse faults. The illustrations are exceedingly well chosen and, as a whole, well executed, though two of the best pictures in the book, Plate 4 and Figure 86, are so blurred as to be comparatively unintelligible. The diagrams, which are numerous, are clear-cut, but the perspective is not good, and in most cases the reader does not get a conception of distance. They look as though they were to represent sections of small models rather than views of large areas. This criticism is applicable to all the diagrams bringing in perspective that we have noted.

In conclusion it may be said that the book is one that will find many uses and be of great help in making scientific geology and physiography intelligent and interesting. It is not a book, however, that could be used alone in the elementary preparation of pupils for professional work, and therein lies its weakness. In most high schools and normal schools, especially where the teacher has but little knowledge of out-of-doors and little knowledge of geology apart from that gained from text-books, this treatise will be of great assistance. Prof. Tarr has written his book to appeal to a special audience and a large one, and he will probably succeed. From the standpoint of the writer, therefore, there is little criticism to offer. It is to be regretted, however, from the scientific standpoint, that an author who is so successful in writing to a popular audience, should not be more inclined to lead his readers into untrodden fields, and thereby advance the cause of science.

R. E. D.

Rocks, Rock-Weathering and Soils. By George P. Merrill, Curator of Geology in the United States National Museum. The Macmillan Co. 8vo, 411 pp. Price, $4.00.

This is one of the most useful and satisfactory manuals that has appeared in recent years, possessing as much interest for the geographer as for the geologist. The author has summarized a wide range of facts with such care and fullness of references as to make the book valuable to the special student. Nor has he neglected the general reader, who will find simple and precise explanations of the things which he wishes to know about soils and the rocks from which they are derived. Part I deals with rocks in general, their chemical elements, constituent minerals, physical properties and mode of occurrence. Part II deals with the classification and description of the chief kinds of rocks,—aqueous, igneous, æolian and metamorphic. The author states that the work is not a petrology, but that the study of rocks is simply introductory to the rest of the volume. There is, perhaps, no other work which so well defines the variations and limitations in the use of many terms commonly applied to rocks and rock structures. The account of clays, given